



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s):	D.Wade Walke, <i>et al.</i>	Group Art Unit: 1652
Application No.:	09/833,782	Examiner: M.A. Walicka
Filed:	4/12/2001	
Title:	Novel Human Metalloprotease and Polynucleotides Encoding the Same	Atty. Docket No. LEX-0161-USA

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED JULY 3, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on July 3, 2002 (Paper No. 10), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following amendments and remarks. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No.10 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

Also included herewith as Exhibit A is a marked-up version of the claims showing the amendments made herein; as Exhibit B is a clean copy of the claims that will be pending upon entry of the present amendment and as Exhibit C is an amion acid alignment between SEQ ID NO:2 and GENBANK Accession No. CAC27329 ,and Exhibit D is a copy of the abstract from a review by Shrimpton, Smith and Lew (Endocr. Rev. Oct; 23(5):647-64, 2002).

A Petition for an Extension of Time of one month to and including November 3, 2002, which falls on a Sunday and is therefore extended until Monday November4, 2002 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response.